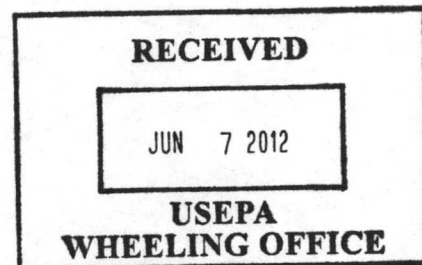


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029



SUBJECT: Range Resources, Farrar School Road,
Hopewell, Washington County, PA

FROM: Paula Curtin *Paula Curtin 5/30/12*
Spill Enforcement Coordinator (3HS61)

TO: Joan Armstrong, Chief *Joan Armstrong 6/5/12*
Oil and Prevention Branch (3HS61)

THRU: Karen Melvin, Associate Director *Karen Melvin 06/06/2012*
Office of Enforcement (3HS60)

On December 1, 2011, an Information Request letter, pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean water Act (CWA) was issued to Range Resources to gather information about a reported spill of waste water from an impoundment. EPA received the report through the National Response Center, Incident #994255. On January 17, 2012, EPA received a response from Range Resources.

According to the response, on October 31, 2011, contractors were installing a pipeline in the area of Farrar School Road. An employee of the contractor attempted to move an above ground temporary water pipeline using a backhoe. The line was not being used at the time, but contained a mixture of fresh and recycled water that was being pumped between impoundments for use in hydraulic fracturing activities in the area. According to the response, an estimated 400 barrels of fresh and recycled water was released when a joint failed as a result of operator error. An unknown amount of the water entered nearby Dunkle Run.

According to the response, workers immediately dug trenches to collect the water and attempted to prevent it from further reaching Dunkle Run. Potentially impacted soils were removed from the site.

Samples were collected by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and results of those samples taken from the stream indicate that no oil or hazardous substances listed under Section 117.3 of the CWA were detected in the stream.

According to Vince Yanko, Supervisor, Water Quality, PADEP intends to pursue enforcement Under the Clean Streams Law. In addition, the Fish and Boat Commission was involved in the response and will most likely also be pursuing a penalty action. Under PA Clean Streams Law, and Fish and Boat Code, any pollutant discharged to waters of the State is an actionable violation.

Based on the review of the response, and available information from PA DEP, it has been determined that violations under Section 311 of the CWA will be difficult to substantiate. While there is no evidence to support oil or hazardous substances listed under Section 311 were

discharged, the pursuit of a penalty pursuant to the State Clean Streams Law is a reasonable action.

Based on current information available, there is no further action under 311(b)(3) being contemplated at this time. EPA reserves the right to conduct future investigations and bring future enforcement actions, as appropriate.

